

Senate Resolution 1171

By: Senator Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 13 of each year as Flat Rock Archives Day; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Flat Rock community is located within the territorial boundaries of Arabia
3 Mountain and Panola Mountain, which territories include the South River and the Yellow
4 River, lakes, ponds, walking trails, sacred burial sites, and historic homes; and

5 WHEREAS, the Flat Rock community established two churches for Blacks, Bethel Baptist
6 Church and Flat Rock Methodist Church, later renamed Flat Rock United Methodist Church;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, history shows that the Flat Rock area included the oldest and largest Black and
9 Native American territorial settlement in the early 1800's; and

10 WHEREAS, the foundation of Flat Rock culture today is built upon the efforts, life skills,
11 and mode of survival of these early settlers, whose forefathers forged trails toward the
12 achievement of a better quality of life producing noted educators and leaders in various
13 professions; and

14 WHEREAS, with limited educational resources and facilities, reading, writing, and life skills
15 were taught in first through seventh grades; and

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17 WHEREAS, the last teacher before school consolidation was Frankie Bates Hardy, and the
18 school was supported by an endowment from a philanthropist from Pennsylvania, which
19 endowment was to be used for southern Black schools; and

20 WHEREAS, the students from the Flat Rock community attended the Lithonia School for
21 Negroes, under the leadership of Principal Albert I. Brooks, which was supported by the
22 DeKalb County School system in Lithonia, Georgia; and

1 WHEREAS, later the DeKalb County School System built Bruce Street Elementary and High
2 School to replace the Lithonia School for Negroes; and

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4 WHEREAS, recently the DeKalb County School System built a new elementary school in
5 the community which is named Flat Rock Elementary under the leadership of Dr. Shelton
6 Wright; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Flat Rock community, under the direction of Mr. Johnny Waites, Ms. Vera
9 Whitaker, Reverend T. A. Bryant, Jr., Mr. Lamar Guthrie, and other family, friends, and
10 supporters have researched the history of the Flat Rock Community to establish the Flat Rock
11 Archives.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that December 13 of each
13 year shall be recognized as Flat Rock Archives Day to be celebrated within the Flat Rock
14 community and the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area, thereby giving honor and special
15 recognition to the forefathers of the Flat Rock community, its history, traditions, and
16 extended families.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
18 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Flat Rock Archives.